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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Please do not modify the 1996 Telecommunications Act that requires the big telecom carriers to share their copper wires. By enforcing the sharing of those wires, the Telecom Act creates competition for the telecom companies. Competition is a requirement for a capitalistic market to function properly. Without competition, the big companies will have monopoly opportunities to charge the highest rate they can without actually providing good service. Broadband connections won't improve, and the US economy will take a hit because the US consumer will have an inferior network. There is no reason why the richest country in the world should have one of the poorest telecommunications networks in the developed world, but that is where we will be if the FCC fails to regulate the market. The FCC is supposed to work for the public interest, not for the interests of the largest corporations. The only way for us consumers to have a good telecommunications network is for there to be regulations that deny monopolies.

I am a customer of Sonic.net, and while I will be getting a fiber connection in the coming weeks, I have been receiving service through copper wires. That service is a fraction of the price I would pay AT&T (about half price), and the service I receive is great. The price I pay Sonic is even lower than the lowest service I can get from AT&T, yet the speeds I get are much higher than AT&T offers me.

Thanks.

Robert Abiad